

Wagner Ranch

Annual Report 2002



This Document should be cited as follows:

Berry, Mark, "Wagner Ranch", Project No. 2001-04000, 3 electronic pages, (BPA Report DOE/BP-00007448-1)

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

This report was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, as part of BPA's program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The views in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of BPA.

WAGNER RANCH FY2002 ANNUAL REPORT
October 30, 2002

FOLLOWING:

FY 2002 SCOPE OF WORK FOR WAGNER RANCH

- AND -

Being submitted in conjunction with an Annual Report for Pine Creek Ranch

OBJECTIVE 1. Conduct resource inventories and gather scientific baseline information for monitoring purposes and to assist in the development of management plans.

Task 1.1 Obtain digital color orthophotography. Develop vegetation classifications, GIS coverages, and maps.

The Tribes entered into a subcontract with 3Di, Inc, to obtain color digital orthophotography as part of a project jointly funded by the NPS and BLM. 3Di completed the aerial photography on June 12, 2002. Orthophotography is currently partially completed, and final delivery is expected in November.

ONHP completed field work between May 27 and June 18, 2002; establishing permanent monitoring transects and GPS points to support vegetation mapping and monitoring. Vegetation mapping will be completed using the digital orthophotos and additional field work in 2003.

Task 1.2 Establish permanently marked monitoring points in riparian and upland habitats.

Initial upland photomonitoring points have been established. Permanent upland monitoring transects were established as part of ONHP's vegetation mapping and monitoring field work. Riparian monitoring points were established by ODFW as part of their aquatic habitat survey.

Task 1.3 Take monitoring photos at riparian and upland monitoring points.

Monitoring photos have been taken on Wagner Ranch at landscape monitoring sites. Photos will be taken at riparian monitoring points in 2003.

Task 1.4 Conduct biological surveys.

1.11 Conduct big game inventories to calculate age and sex ratios.

Game surveys were conducted on the ground between November 21 and December 13, 2001, and by helicopter on December 30, 2001. A total of 252 deer were classified in the ground survey, and 249 in the aerial survey. Ground ratios were 12 bucks per 100 does and 39 fawns per 100 does; while the aerial ratios were 22 bucks per 100 does and 48

fawns per 100 does. A total of 128 elk were classified in the ground survey, and 333 in the aerial survey, with ground ratios of 13.4 bulls per 100 cows and 29 calves per 100 cows; with aerial ratios of 7 bulls per 100 cows and 37 calves per 100 cows.

Limited numbers of pronghorn antelope were also observed on the property this year. Exotic Audad sheep were also observed on the property in 2002, as well as in adjacent BLM land.

1.12 Conduct Hankins & Reeves aquatic habitat survey

ODFW has conducted an aquatic habitat survey on the mainstem John Day River, the report is expected in late fall 2002.

1.13 Conduct breeding bird point counts at riparian monitoring points.

No breeding bird counts were conducted on Wagner Ranch this year. Riparian monitoring points established by ODFW will be used for future breeding bird counts.

1.14 Record observations of birds throughout the year.

Weekly records of all species observed have been maintained.

Task 1.5 Conduct baseline Habitat Evaluation Procedures to determine initial mitigation crediting to BPA.

After discussion with BPA COTR John Baugher, it has been agreed that Wagner HEP will occur in 2003, so that vegetation maps can be completed in 2002 prior to field work.

OBJECTIVE 2. Protect and manage ranch resources.

Task 2.1 Negotiate access easements with neighboring landowners as needed.

No easement negotiations were completed.

Task 2.2 Work with an advisory committee composed of tribal, state, federal, and local representatives to develop public access regulations.

The tribal and public access program is continuing, using regulations modified in spring 2002.

Task 2.3 Post boundaries and work cooperatively with neighbors to build and maintain boundary fences and remove trespass livestock as needed.

Wagner Ranch boundaries have not yet been posted. A possible land exchange with BLM is pending which would substantially change Wagner boundaries and facilitate management.

Task 2.3 Treat noxious weed sites.

Wheeler County Weed Board's Weed Control Officer has conducted herbicidal control of noxious weeds on Wagner Ranch roadways.

Task 2.4 Contract with BLM for wild-fire control.

A wildfire response meeting was held in April, with Will Bartlett and Geoff Babb from Prineville BLM. Responses to wildfire were agreed upon; however, funding and liability issues have not been resolved. BLM has not provided an answer to the Tribes request to enter into a wildfire control agreement. The Tribes requested a joint meeting with BPA and BLM to resolve this issue, but the meeting could not be scheduled before the 2002 fire season. The Tribes are currently attempting to re-schedule the meeting for early December 2002.

Task 2.5 Patrol ranch property periodically during hunting seasons.

The ranch manager has patrolled Wagner Ranch.

OBJECTIVE 3. Deliverables

Task 4.1 Submit Aquatic Habitat Survey report.

This report will be submitted when received from ODFW.

Task 4.2 Compile quarterly progress reports and submit to BPA.

Quarterly reports have been submitted.

Task 4.3 Submit Annual Report for FY2002.

This is the annual report for FY 2002.